

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 12-23 are pending in the application. Claims 12-22 have been amended and Claim 23 has been added. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 19 stands rejected due to insufficient antecedent basis for "the stop means" and "the fixation means." Claim 19 has been amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-15 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adam, et al., in view of Adams. Claim 12 has been amended to provide means for conducting electrical current between the core and the base. The combination of Adam, et al., with Adams does not anticipate, teach, or suggest a joint for sealing and for conducting electrical current between two components such as the present invention does between the core and the base. The closed motor transmission unit of Adam, et al., is not designed to conduct electrical current between the closed motor and transmission unit housings. The motor is powered by two electrical lines 5 and 6 shown in Figure 1. Electrical lines 5 and 6 feed through a boss 41 into the housing. Specifically, in column 4, lines 1-6, Adam, et al., discloses that the disk shape design of the seal 4 can be used advantageously to form guides, for instance, in the form of a guide slot or guide rib for the targeted insulation of external supply lines 5, 6 to the terminals of the brush holder 8 which is arranged in operation behind the seal 4. The Adam, et al., invention is not designed to work with a gasket having metal elements for conducting electrical current between two housings. The Adams reference teaches the use of metal eyelets for preventing failures of the gasket through compression set and/or gasket "flow" into apertures. The combination of Adam et al. in view of Adams would not enable one skilled in the art to make the present invention. The eyelets were not designed to be electrical passageways between a core and a base. Combining the gasket of Adams with the closed motor transmission unit of Adam, et al., would not produce a workable motor vehicle wiper as claimed in the present application. The Examiner is requested to cite a reference showing a gasket sandwiched between a core and a base for conducting electrical current between the

core and the base for operating the motor in the manner disclosed by the present invention. Neither Adam, et al., nor Adams anticipate, teach, or suggest a joint having a stop projecting into an opening as recited in claim 20. The Examiner cites stops 42 and 43 as projecting into an opening in Adam et al. Stops 42 and 43 are merely slot-shaped openings for corresponding guiding projections 33 and 34 which are axially formed on the transmission housing 3 as Adam, et al., explains in column 3, lines 60-65. In columns 3, lines 27-35, Adam, et al., teaches at the housing end faces 21 and 31, stops 22 and 32 which come into contact axially with each other after tightening are formed radially outside the seal 4 which prevent the seal 4 from being squeezed excessively or in a random manner. The stops of Adam et al. assure that with the seal 4, designed according to the invention, an exact alignment of the motor housing 2 and the transmission housing 3 is possible after mutual tightening. Adam, et al., clearly teaches that the stops are formed on the two mating housings and not on the seal as taught in the present invention. Applicant teaches that the joint 30 (or seal) uses stops 44 to prevent improper assembly between the joint 30 and the core in the present invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 12-15 and 20-21 is respectfully requested.

Claim 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adam, et al., in view of Adams and in further view of Kuribara, et al. Claim 16 has been amended to further define the temporary fixation means as having a wall that externally surrounds the outer periphery of the mating flange of the core. The combination of Adam, et al., Adams, and Kuribara, et al., does not anticipate, teach, or suggest a joint with this feature. The joint 30 in Kuribara, et al., seals an inner portion of the annular extension 65 of the outer casing 20 with a metal journal 43. The seal does not extend around the outer periphery of the annular extension. Combining this seal arrangement with Adam, et al., and Adams does not anticipate, teach or suggest the sealing joint of the present invention as recited in amended claim 16. The joint 30 of the present invention wraps around the external flange of the core 4 and is temporarily held by lugs 40 prior to assembly. The combination of Adam, et al., Adams, and Kuribara, et al., does not anticipate, teach, or suggest a clipping lug connected to the wall to provide a temporary fixation means

as recited in claim 17. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 16-18 is respectfully requested. Claim 22 was not formally rejected, but has been amended to place the claim in standard "method claiming" format as alluded to in the Examiner's remarks.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance, notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

12. (Amended) A motor vehicle wiper gear motor comprising:
a core motor [and] attached to a reduction gear base, the core and base having metal [parts, characterized by comprising] mating flanges with outer peripheries protruding away from the core and the base, respectively; and
a joint interposed between the core and the base, the joint including a sealing material and at least [a] one metal element in contact with metal parts of the core and the base, the at least one metal element operable to conduct electrical current between the core and the base.
13. (Amended) The gear motor according to claim 12 [, characterized by having] further comprising:
a fixation orifice adjoining the metal element.
14. (Amended) The gear motor according to claim 12,
[characterized by] wherein the metal element [being] is embedded in the sealing material.
15. (Amended) The gear motor according to claim 12 [, characterized by there being] further comprising:
two metal elements, [the two metal elements] being disjointed from one another.
16. (Amended) The gear motor according to claim 12 [, characterized by including] further comprising:
definitive fixation means for the joint to the core motor and[,] temporary fixation means for the joint to one of the core and the base, the temporary

fixation means includes a wall that externally surrounds the outer periphery of the mating flange of the core.

17. (Amended) The gear motor according to claim 16, [characterized by] wherein the temporary fixation means [containing,] includes at least [a] one clipping lug connected to one of the wall and on the joint.

18. (Amended) The gear motor according to claim 17[, characterized by having] further comprising:

an access orifice in the lug to provide means for removing [in order to remove] the temporary fixation means.

19. (Amended) The gear motor according to claim 13[, characterized by] further comprising:

cooperating [the] fixation means of the joint to the core motor and [the] stop means for angular positioning of the joint in relation to the core motor around an axis of the core motor.

20. (Amended) The gear motor according to claim 12, [characterized by] wherein one of the core and the base have at least [a] one cylindrical sector, the joint having an opening able to receive the cylindrical sector and at least [a] one stop projecting into the opening.

21. (Amended) The gear motor according to claim 12, [characterized by] wherein the joint sealing material [containing] comprises a plastic material.

22. (Amended) A manufacturing process of a gear motor[according to claim 16, characterized by] comprising the steps of:

[fixing the] connecting a joint to one of [the] a core and [the] a base by [the] temporary fixation means;
[returning] positioning the joint between [to the other of] the core and the base; and

fixing the joint, the core, and the base by [the] definitive fixation means, such that electrical current conducts between the core and the base through at least one metal element associated with the joint.

Claim 23 has been added

3682



Our Reference: VMF-492-A

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dominique Gerrand & Pascal Renoux
Serial Number: 09/889,079
Filing Date: July 11, 2001
Examiner/Art Group Unit: Smith, Julie Knecht/3682
Title: MOTOR VEHICLE WIPER GEAR MOTOR
WITH BASE AND CORE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

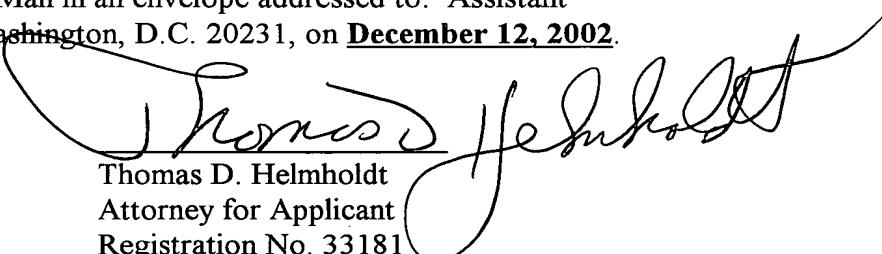
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